

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01415 161615Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05 NSCE-00
INRE-00 SSO-00 ACDA-12 IO-14 /081 W
-----008548 161639Z /23

O 161512Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7122
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1415

USIAC

USIA FOR INA, IOP

EO 11652: NA
SUBJ: BEIRUT PRESS ON ISRAELI ATTACK

1. FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY L'ORIENT LE JOUR PERHAPS
BEST SUMMED UP BEIRUT MEDIA SHOCK AT ISRAELI
ATTACK AGAINST LEBANON IN MARCH 16 BANNERLINE: "ONE-TENTH OF
LEBANON IS OCCUPIED." FRONT-PAGE PIX AND MULTIPLE-PAGE PHOTO
INSERTS IN MOST PAPERS EMPHASIZED EXTENT OF DAMAGE
TO CIVILIAN#TAGAD AND LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES. ONE
CAPTION IN PRO-PALESTINIAN AL-LIWA SCREAMED:
"WHERE IS WORLD CONSCIENCE?"

2. LEFTIST AS-SAFIR HEADLINES HIGHLIGHTED "HEROIC
RESISTANCE WHICH CONFRONTED ISRAELI INVADERS", WHILE RIGHTIST
AL-AHRAR, ORGAN OF CHAMOUN'S PARTY, BANNERLINED:
"OCCUPATION OF DOZENS OF VILLAGES IN SOUTH AND BIKAA".

3. MOST PAPERS ACCURATELY REPORTED STATE DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMEN'S PRESS BRIEFING OF MARCH 15 AS WELL AS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01415 161615Z

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS TO PRESS SAME DAY. AS-SAFIR, HOWEVER,
CARRIED AN AFP STORY ATTRIBUTING TO PLO INFORMATION CHIEF
STATEMENT THAT "ISRAELI AGGRESSION WAS LAUNCHED IN
COLLUSION WITH U.S. AIM OF OPERATION IS TO WEAKEN PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE AND EMBARRASS SYRIA IN ORDER TO IMPOSE EGYPTIAN-
ISRAELI SETTLEMENT."

4. EDITORIALY, PHALANGE PARTY ORGAN AL-AMAL ACCUSED

PALESTINIANS OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR ISRAELI ATTACK:

"SINCE 1968 SAME PAINFUL TRAGEDY IS REPEATED. THOSE WHO THOUGHT SOUTH IS A WINNING CARD IN THEIR HANDS DISCOVERED THAT ISRAEL ALONE IS THE BIG WINNER. NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTAWRA AGREEMENT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT PALESTINIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT LEBANON IS PAYING NOW."

5. PRO-LIBYA AS-SAFIR LAUDED "HEROIC RESISTANCE" OF PALESTINIANS: "PALESTINIAN AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT FIGHTERS HAVE HEROICALLY RESISTED ENEMY FORCES AND DEFENDED LEBANON'S LAND, SAME WAY THEY WOULD HAVE DEFENDED PALESTINE. WHEN A LEBANESE PARTY LEADER ACCUSES PALESTINIANS OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SOUTH, HE IS OBVIOUSLY PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH PRETEXT FOR ITS AGGRESSION."
MALIK

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) AS RECEIVED

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REPRISALS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT01415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780117-0773
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780362/aaaacajd.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c92d4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3315308
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT PRESS ON ISRAELI ATTACK
TAGS: SOPN, MOPS, LE
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c92d4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014